

LEWIS COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1
DBA MORTON GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MORTON NURSING HOME
Lewis County, Washington
January 1, 1991 Through December 31, 1992

Schedule Of Findings

1. The District Should Follow Legally Mandated Bid Procedures

Lewis County Public Hospital District No. 1 remodeled its emergency room at a cost of \$18,864.62. The remodeling project included new cabinets, floor, privacy drapes, and an intravenous track system. The district did not solicit competitive bids for the remodeling project.

RCW 70.44.140 states in part:

All materials purchased and work ordered, the estimated cost of which is in excess of five thousand dollars, shall be by contract. Before awarding any such contract, the commission shall cause to be published a notice at least thirty days before the letting of said contract, inviting sealed proposals for such work, plans and specifications

Without soliciting for bids the district cannot be assured of obtaining materials and work at the best price available.

The district was apparently unaware of the statutory bid requirements.

We recommend that, in the future, the district adhere to statutory bid requirements.

2. The District Should Appoint An Auditor

When the district's former auditor resigned several years ago, a new auditor was never formally appointed by the board of commissioners.

RCW 42.24.080 states in part:

All claims presented against any county, city, district or other municipal corporation or political subdivision by persons furnishing materials, rendering services or performing labor, or for any other contractual purpose, shall be audited, before payment, by an auditing officer elected or appointed pursuant to statute or, in the absence of statute, an appropriate charter provision, ordinance or resolution of the municipal corporation or political subdivision.

Without formal appointment, the person reviewing claims lacks legal authority to approve them.

Failure to appoint an auditing officer was apparently an oversight by the hospital board of commissioners.

We recommend the district appoint an auditor by resolution.

3. The District Should Put Its Name On All Hospital Vehicles

The district owns a Ford pickup truck which has not been marked with the district's name.

RCW 46.08.065 states in part:

(1) It is unlawful for any public officer having charge of any vehicle owned or controlled by any . . . public body in this state . . . and used in public business to operate the same upon the public highways of this state unless and until there shall be displayed upon such automobile or other motor vehicle in letters of contrasting color not less than one and one-quarter inches in height in a conspicuous place on the right and left sides thereof, the name of such . . . public body.

Marking of vehicles helps assure they are only used for district approved purposes. District personnel were apparently unaware of the statutory requirement for the marking of vehicles.

We recommend the district affix its name to all of its vehicles.